

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 27th July 2021

Psalm 36

Transgression speaks to the wicked
 deep in their hearts;
there is no fear of God
 before their eyes.
For they flatter themselves in their own eyes
 that their iniquity cannot be found out and
hated.
The words of their mouths are mischief and
deceit;
 they have ceased to act wisely and do good.
They plot mischief while on their beds;
 they are set on a way that is not good;
 they do not reject evil.
Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the
heavens,
 your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
 your judgements are like the great deep;
 you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
 All people may take refuge in the shadow of
your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
 and you give them drink from the river of your
delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
 in your light we see light.
O continue your steadfast love to those who
know you,
 and your salvation to the upright of heart!
Do not let the foot of the arrogant tread on me,
 or the hand of the wicked drive me away.
There the evildoers lie prostrate;
 they are thrust down, unable to rise.

Ezekial 33:1-20

The word of the Lord came to me: O Mortal,
speak to your people and say to them, If I bring
the sword upon a land, and the people of the land
take one of their number as their sentinel; and if
the sentinel sees the sword coming upon the land
and blows the trumpet and warns the
people; then if any who hear the sound of the
trumpet do not take warning, and the sword
comes and takes them away, their blood shall be
upon their own heads. They heard the sound of
the trumpet and did not take warning; their blood
shall be upon themselves. But if they had taken
warning, they would have saved their lives. But if
the sentinel sees the sword coming and does not
blow the trumpet, so that the people are not
warned, and the sword comes and takes any of
them, they are taken away in their iniquity, but
their blood I will require at the sentinel's hand.
So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the
house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from
my mouth, you shall give them warning from
me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you
shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn
the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked
shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will
require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked
to turn from their ways, and they do not turn
from their ways, the wicked shall die in their
iniquity, but you will have saved your life.
Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus
you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins
weigh upon us, and we waste away because of
them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I
live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the
death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn
from their ways and live; turn back, turn back
from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house
of Israel? And you, mortal, say to your people,
The righteousness of the righteous shall not save
them when they transgress; and as for the
wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them
stumble when they turn from their wickedness;
and the righteous shall not be able to live by their
righteousness when they sin. Though I say to the

righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die', yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right— if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live.

Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just', when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge all of you according to your ways!

James 2:14-end

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was

called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.